

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-6 and 8-21 are currently pending. Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 12-18 have been allowed and that claims 2, 3 and 5-7 contain allowable subject matter. In response thereto, claim 2 has been placed in independent form, as have claims 5 and 6. The dependency of claims 4 and 8 have been changed to claim 2 and claims 9-11 have been repeated as new claims 19-21, but dependent upon claim 6. Accordingly, all currently pending claims include subject matter identified as allowable and have been placed in appropriate form so as not to depend on any rejected base claim. Accordingly, for reasons of record, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the above-captioned application.

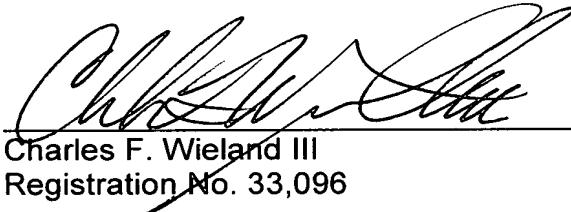
Applicants note that various claims were rejected over various patents. All of these rejections have been rendered moot by the above changes to the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Having addressed the concerns expressed in the Office Action in the manner designed to assure prompt allowance, Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should any residual issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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